

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Commencement Bay, South Tacoma Channel Tacoma, Washington

On June 14, 2005, EPA deleted a portion of the Commencement Bay, South Tacoma Channel Superfund site from the National Priorities List (NPL). The site is located in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington. This partial deletion pertains only to the surface soils of the 260 acre South Tacoma Field (STF) Operable Unit (OU) and does not include the other portions of the site.

The Commencement Bay, South Tacoma Channel site is made up of three OUs: STF, Well 12A, and Tacoma Municipal Landfill. The STF area has been used for a variety of industrial and commercial purposes for more than 100 years. Former activities include railroad equipment manufacturing, repair and maintenance; iron and brass foundry; aircraft maintenance and refueling operations; disposal area for foundry, construction, and domestic wastes; unauthorized dumping areas for household and commercial wastes; public utilities; and builders supply.

The Record of Decision (ROD) identified the following cleanup objectives for soils: (1) Excavate soil "hot spots," treat on-site using solidification, consolidate, and cap them; (2) Cap soils with contaminant concentrations exceeding the State's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) industrial use criteria; (3) Limit site use to industrial where contaminant concentrations fall between the MTCA criteria for industrial and residential uses; (4) In areas zoned for residential/commercial use with contaminant concentrations exceeding the MTCA criteria for residential use, soils were to be cleaned up as prescribed in MTCA.

Tacoma City Light conducted cleanup of the PCB-contaminated dry wells at the north end of the STF between August 1997 and January 1998. The cleanup objective for the dry wells was to remove all contaminated soils exceeding MTCA residential use concentrations which was a more aggressive cleanup level than selected for the rest of the site. The remaining remedial action activities at the STF began in June 1998, and included the following activities: (1) Approximately 6,300 tons of soil exceeding hot-spot concentrations were excavated, treated, consolidated on-site, and covered with a clean soil cap at the north end of the STF; (2) At Pioneer Builders Supply, 15.4 tons of soil with PCBs exceeding 50 mg/kg were excavated and disposed of off-site; (3) 113,607 tons of soil were consolidated and capped; (4) An estimated 13.7 acres of the STF was capped; (5) Buried tanks, drums, contents, and associated contaminated soils and solid wastes were removed and disposed; (6) Contaminated sub-surface soils were capped where excavation and consolidation were not cost-effective and became subject to institutional controls; (7) Institutional controls prohibiting residential development and limiting exposure were put in place; and (8) During construction, air was monitored to assess airborne contaminant concentrations.

The first Five-Year Review, completed in June 2003, determined that the implemented remedies continued to protect human health and the environment and that additional protective measures were not needed. The second Five-Year Review is scheduled for 2008.

The EPA, in concurrence with the State of Washington, has determined that the responsible parties have implemented all the required appropriate response actions for the surface soils at the STF site. Therefore, EPA is deleting this portion of the Commencement Bay, South Tacoma Channel site from the NPL.

